

### January 2010

The City of Seattle is committed to ensuring that on-street parking is managed effectively for short-term users, including those with disabled parking (DP) placards.

To limit abuse that impacts access to parking for legitimate placard holders, SDOT is proposing 4-hour time limits to paid parking for vehicles with DP placards in parts of First Hill and Downtown (please see maps on following page).

Vehicles with DP license plates would be exempt from the 4-hour time limit. Parking would remain free within paid parking areas for both placards and license plates.

If longer term parking is needed, options include obtaining a DP license plate from the Department of Licensing, or off-street parking.



### We are interested in your feedback

- Please contact Mary Catherine Snyder at (206) 684-8110 or [marycatherine.snyder@seattle.gov](mailto:marycatherine.snyder@seattle.gov), or Allison Schwartz at (206) 386-4654 or [allison.schwartz@seattle.gov](mailto:allison.schwartz@seattle.gov)
- Learn more at <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parking/disabledparking.htm>

### Why take action?

- As of early 2009, there were over 750,000 *inactive* DP placards inappropriately in circulation statewide. Placards represent “golden tickets” to free on-street parking, especially in downtown Seattle where monthly off-street parking is relatively expensive.
- Misuse of disabled parking placards limits access by all to First Hill hospitals, where 40% of spaces are used by vehicles with placards.
- On any given day in downtown Seattle, between 30 and 40% of spaces are filled with vehicles with placards. Parking enforcement reports that over 10% are inactive—meaning that between 100 and 700 spaces could be open for those with legitimate placards.
- Other efforts to address placard abuse have been effective but limited, because it is so easy to obtain an unauthorized DP placard.

### What else is the City doing?

A comprehensive approach is underway to address placard abuse:

- Enforcement – Last summer, a new City law increased citation fines for DP placard misuse. Already over 50 vehicles have received a \$250 ticket
- State programs – Seattle is working with other cities and social service agencies to propose changes to state governing rules for improved accountability
- Community actions – First Hill hospitals are doing their part to educate staff and doctors about disabled parking permit laws

## Proposed areas for 4-hour time limit for vehicles with DP placards

